(d) As per information received from the Ministry of Finance, so far the State Governments have reported an utilization of Rs. 133.89 crores.

Shortage of staff in fast track courts

664. SHRI BALAVANT *ALIAS* BAL APTE: Will the Minister of LAW AND JUSTICE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that fast track courts do not have adequate staff; and

(b) if so, how can they be expected to function efficiently and really work as fast track courts?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF LAW AND JUSTICE (SHRI K. VENKATAPATHY): (a) and (b) The Eleventh Finance Commission had recommended provision for one Additional Sessions Judge, one Peshkar, one Stenographer and one Peon for each Fast Track Court. If the staff is inadequate, it is for the concerned High Court and the State Government to take appropriate decision to appoint additional staff as directed by the Supreme Court in its Judgement dated 6th May, 2002 in the case of Brij Mohan Lal *Vs.* Union of India & Ors.

Supreme Court Bench in Karnataka

665. SHRI K. B. KRISHNA MURTHY: Will the Minister of LAW AND JUSTICE be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is any demand from Karnataka to establish a permanent Bench of the Supreme Court in Karnataka to avoid litigants in travelling all the way to Delhi for their cases; and

(b) if so, the average number of the cases filed before the Supreme Court from Karnataka, Tamil Nadu, Kerala and Goa?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF LAW AND JUSTICE (SHRI K. VENKATAPATHY): (a) Article 130 of the Constitution of India provides that the Supreme Court shall sit in Delhi or in such other place or places as the Chief Justice of India may, in consultation with the President, from time to time, appoint. In the wake of representations received from various sources, including the Government of Karnataka the proposal for setting up of benches of the Supreme Court outside Delhi was referred to